

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00338 080349Z POSS DUPE
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 /059 W
-----011851 081554Z /23

R 071204Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4132
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 338

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR NS GY
SUBJ: NO PROGRESS IN SURINAM-GUYANA RELATIONS

REF: PARAMARIBO 211

1. FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF GUYANA'S FOREIGN MINISTER
WILLS IN MID-FEBRUARY SHORTLY AFTER HIS TWO VISITS TO
PARAMARIBO SEEKING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE FISHING
DISPUTES BETWEEN GUYANA AND SURINAM, THERE APPARENTLY HAS
BEEN NO FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT, AT LEAST AT
THE PARAMARIBO END. GUYANESE CHARGE RECENTLY TOLD CHARGE
THAT HE FEARED PROCESS OF IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES HAD GOTTEN BOGGED DOWN.

2. IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, MEANWHILE, RELATIONS WITH
GUYANA HAVE TAKEN A BACK SEAT IN THE SURINAM PRESS TO
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SURINAM (GOS) AND DUTCH GOVERNMENTS
OVER IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PARAMARIBO
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PROGRAMS. THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW REPORTS OF GUYANESE
FISHERMEN SPOTTED FISHING WITHOUT GOS PERMISSION IN THE
CORANTIJN TIVEN, BUT APPARENTLY NO ACTUAL ARRESTS SO
FAR. TWO LARGE NETS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN SEIZED AFTER
THEY HAD ALLEGEDLY BEEN PLACED IN THE RIVER BY GUYANESE.
AT THE SAME TIME, GOS IS PROCEEDING TO ISSUE FISHING
LICENSES TO RESIDENTS OF NICKERIE DISTRICT (SURINAM'S

WESTERN BORDER AREA), SIX ACCORDING TO A MARCH 6
NEWSPAPER ITEM.

3. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME COMMENTS FROM EMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AS TO WHETHER GUYANA'S NEW FOREIGN MINISTER IS LIKELY TO
PICK UP THE PIECES OF WILLS' ABORTIVE ATTEMPT TO REACH
AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SURINAMERS ON FISHING QUESTIONS
AND RESUME TALKS ON THESE IRRITATING ISSUES BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES.
LORTON

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NNN

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